

develop community gardens, help elderly residents and are active during the holiday season serving at the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and giveaways.

Bob fulfills his dream of helping as many people as he can by travelling outside of the city to pick up furniture and supplies for those in need, his constant involvement with young adult volunteers at local colleges and his time and effort in the community gardens.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. and Mrs. Kuebler and their admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo and the youth of our community. The Kueblers' commitment to their community is exceptional, and they are most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/We Care and the City of Buffalo.

THE WINGMAN ACT (H.R. 244)

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House on the passage of the WINGMAN Act.

The WINGMAN Act will allow designated Congressional staffers to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to expedite the resolution of veterans' claims and better serve constituents.

The need for this legislation is best illustrated by example. One of my constituents, John Harrison, has been battling with the VA over multiple claims for many years. He has continuously dealt with frustration, stagnation, and complications due to poor communication from the VA.

In November 2016, Mr. Harrison was notified that one of his longstanding claims was closed. The VA claimed it closed the case because Mr. Harrison failed to submit a rebuttal to the VA's decision in an appropriate timeframe.

However, Mr. Harrison did in fact submit the rebuttal, and he did so long before the deadline. Mr. Harrison was denied access to his benefits due to disorganization and miscommunication by the VA.

Unfortunately, lack of transparency and delays in communication are regular occurrences for veterans seeking to resolve claims with the VA. Like many veterans, Mr. Harrison is a captive of the process—There is no way for him to know who is handling his claim or how his claim is being resolved.

The WINGMAN Act will help address problems like those experienced by Mr. Harrison by increasing access to essential documentation for Congressional staffers working on cases, expediting claims' resolution, and providing for better communication regarding claims decisions.

It is critical that we establish policies to process claims more efficiently and provide better care for our veterans. This bill will allow the excellent caseworkers in my office, and others across the country, to help the VA be more efficient, and more importantly, to help veterans access their benefits.

I am proud to support and cosponsor the WINGMAN Act to help ensure veterans across the United States receive timely access to the benefits they earned and deserve.

LOCALWORKS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Localworks for being honored with the Nonprofit of the Year Award by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Initially incorporated as Wheat Ridge 2020, the organization was renamed in 2015 to better reflect their purpose. Localworks connects residents and businesses in order to create a vibrant and more engaged community. Through programs like Harvest and Active, Localworks brings residents together to learn about urban farming, attend local fitness classes or learn more about canning fruits and vegetables. In 2016, Localworks held more than 60 events aimed at connecting residents through common interests and activities.

Each year, Localworks hosts seven events to attract people to the Wheat Ridge business district. In 2016, more than 19,000 people attended events on Ridge at 38 such as the Criterion and Brewfest, Ridgefest, Trunk or Treat, Friday Night Live and the Holiday Celebration.

In 2016, the organization also offered bus tours of Wheat Ridge and hauled away more than 1,000 cubic yards of junk from local neighborhoods through a partnership with the Wheat Ridge Police Department. They also provided loans to residents and businesses for property improvements and were recently awarded a very competitive three-year "Active Living Neighborhood" grant through Kaiser Permanente and The Denver Foundation. These contributions to the Wheat Ridge Community are made possible by volunteers who contributed more than 2,000 hours to the organization.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Localworks for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING DIANE PESCH-SAVATTERI FOR HER COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Diane Pesch-Savatteri, a dedicated volunteer and resident of Buffalo, New York. Diane's tireless service is recognized today by None Like You/We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

Diane is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo and is a proud mother and grandmother. She is the president of Concordia Cemetery, a board member of None Like You/We Care Outreach, and a volunteer for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Diane is a developmental Disabilities Program Specialist for the New York State-WNY Developmental Disabilities Services office where she advocates for, and teaches and trains her patients.

As president of Concordia Cemetery, Mrs. Pesch-Savatteri had led a valiant effort to transform the abandoned cemetery into a place of history, beauty and serenity. While serving on the None Like You/We Care Outreach board, she has been a tremendous help in aiding with the organization, preparation and execution of their annual Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners. She also supervises volunteers and uses her experience in social work to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mrs. Diane Pesch-Savatteri and her admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo. Her commitment to the rehabilitation and beautification of the community is exceptional, and she is most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/We Care and the City of Buffalo.

DERRICK CRANDALL RECEIVING THE CORPS CHAMPION AWARD

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent, Derrick Crandall, on receiving the American Recreation Coalition's Corps Champion Award. Mr. Crandall has diligently supported efforts to bolster the outdoor economy and recreation opportunities for all, including our youth.

Since 1981, Mr. Crandall has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Recreation Coalition. The Washington-based nonprofit organization aims to enhance and preserve outdoor recreational opportunities and protect environmental resources. Upon joining the organization, Mr. Crandall quickly became the national voice of outdoor recreation. He has played an important role in dozens of public policy programs including the National Scenic Byways Program, Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, Recreational Trails Program, Wallop-Breaux Program, and the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission.

Mr. Crandall's efforts have been recognized in many respects. He has received several national awards and recognitions such as induction into the RV Hall of Fame, the receipt of the Annual Award of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the Chevron Conservation Award. Additionally, he has served as the Chairman of the Take Pride America Advisory Board and as a Founding Director of the National Forest Foundation; in each role he was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture respectively.

His dedication to improving and preserving outdoor recreational activities is evident through his illustrious career of dedication and accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Crandall on receiving the American Recreation Coalition's Corps Champion Award. It is a privilege to represent him and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.